

## METHOD FOR PREPARING CHEESE PRODUCTS AND PROCESS CHEESE BASES

### Abstract of the Invention

5           The present invention provides a method for preparing cheese  
products, and process cheese bases for use in the production of process  
cheese. The method generally <sup>includes</sup> ~~comprises~~ mixing one or more concentrated  
powders derived from milk with sodium chloride, milk fat, water, and,  
optionally, an edible acid and/or a preservative for a period of time sufficient  
10   to produce a well-mixed, homogeneous product, and cooling the resulting  
mixture for a time and at a temperature which is sufficient to allow the mixture  
to form a solid matrix. The solid matrix can be consumed, or can be used as  
a substitute for natural cheese and ground by a cheese grinding system  
during the production of process cheese. The present invention also provides  
15   cheese products and process cheese bases prepared according to this  
method, and to process cheeses produced with the process cheese bases.